

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for separating a hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell from a cell population comprising a hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

a) detecting quantifying the expression level of a WT1 gene or of a reporter gene linked to WT1 promoter in a cell in a cell population, the expression level being in the range of either $2.21 (\pm 1.62) \times 10^{-2}$ or $3.54 (\pm 3.39) \times 10^{-4}$ (when expression of the WT1 gene or reporter gene in a K562 leukemia cell line is defined as 1), wherein an expression level in the range of $2.21 (\pm 1.62) \times 10^{-2}$ indicates that the cell is a hepatic progenitor cell or an endothelial progenitor cell, and an expression level in the range of $3.54 (\pm 3.39) \times 10^{-4}$ indicates that the cell is a hematopoietic progenitor cell; and

b) separating the cell from the cell population if expression of the WT1 gene or reporter gene is detected, thereby separating a hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell from a cell population.

2. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method for simultaneously separating at least two hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cells from a cell population, ~~wherein the progenitor cells are selected from hepatic, endothelial, and hematopoietic progenitor cells, and~~ wherein the method comprises the steps of:

a) detecting quantifying the expression level of a WT1 gene or of a reporter gene linked to WT1 promoter in a cell at least two cells in a cell population comprising at least two progenitor cells, selected from hepatic, endothelial, and hematopoietic progenitor cells, the expression level being in the range of either $2.21 (\pm 1.62) \times 10^{-2}$ or $3.54 (\pm 3.39) \times 10^{-4}$ (when expression of the WT1 gene or reporter gene in a K562 leukemia cell line is defined as 1).

wherein an expression level in the range of $2.21 (\pm 1.62) \times 10^{-2}$ indicates that the cell is a hepatic progenitor cell or an endothelial progenitor cell, and an expression level in the range of $3.54 (\pm 3.39) \times 10^{-4}$ indicates that the cell is a hematopoietic progenitor cell; and

b) separating the cells ~~in which expression of the Wt1 gene was detected~~ from the population.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises ~~detection of~~ quantifying expression of the reporter gene.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the reporter gene is a lacZ gene or green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene, and expression of the reporter gene is detected by a FACS assay.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The method of ~~claim 6,~~ claim 2, wherein the reporter gene is a lacZ gene or GFP gene, and expression of the reporter gene is detected by a FACS assay.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell is a hepatic progenitor cell.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell is an endothelial progenitor cell.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell is a hematopoietic progenitor cell.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises quantifying an expression level of the WT1 gene in the cell.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is viable.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the separating step comprises use of FACS sorting.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising culturing the separated cell of step (b) in a culture under conditions suitable for permitting proliferation of a hepatic progenitor cell.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising culturing the separated cell of step (b) under conditions suitable for permitting proliferation of an endothelial progenitor cell.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising culturing the separated cell of step (b) under conditions suitable for permitting proliferation of a hematopoietic progenitor cell.